

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJ: FINAL REPORT ON SKIN SURVEY OF COLOMBIAN ARMY BY LETTERMAN
ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE TEAM

REF: AMEMB BOGOTA MSG 10078, 14 NOV 74; SUBJ: COL ARMY COMMANDER
DENIES CHARGES OF USE OF SOLDIERS AS GUINEA PIGS

1. THE RETURN OF THE MEDICAL TEAM FROM THE LETTERMAN INSTITUTE TO BOGOTA DISCLOSED ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH HERE IN COLOMBIA. TEAM CHIEF DR ALFRED M ALLEN INDICATES THAT ANOTHER MEDICAL TEAM SPONSORED BY THE UNIV OF ANTIOQUIA MED SCHOOL WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING SKIN TESTING OF COLOMBIAN ARMY PERSONNEL IN COOPERATION WITH THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION. THIS TEAM MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTATIVE ZAPATA'S CHARGES THAT COL SOLDIERS WERE BEING USED AS GUINEA PIGS AND FOR GEN VALENCIA TOVAR'S REFERENCE TO MULTINATIONAL DOCTORS PARTICIPATING IN SCIENTIFIC STUDIES (SEE MSG 10078).

2. DR ALLEN STATED THAT ALL OF THE TEAMS STUDIES WERE COORDINATED WITH THE COLOMBIAN MIL AND SUPERVISED BY COL MIL MEDICAL PERSONNEL. HE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THEIR TYPE OF VISIT THAT THEIR FINAL APPROVED PROTOCOL INCLUDED ONLY A MEDICAL HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE, SKIN EXAMINATION AND TAKING SPECIMENS FROM NORMAL AND ABNORMAL SKIN AREAS. AT NO TIME DID
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THE TEAM DO ANY INOCULATION OR DRAW BLOOD SAMPLES. THE FINAL

PROTOCOL FOR THEIR SURVEY DID NOT INCLUDE A THERAPY TEST OF THE FUNGICIDE TINACTIN-M AS STATED IN OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE.

3. ACCORDING TO DR ALLEN THE TEAM WAS WELL RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE COLOMBIAN ARMY PROVIDED OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FAR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS. DR ALLEN AND PROF TAPLIN PROVIDED AN EXIT BRIEFING FOR THE COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN MD FORCES GEN HERRERA CALDERON. THE TEAM BRIEFED THE GEN THAT ALL OF THEIR DATA WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COL MIL AS SOON AS IT WAS COMPILED AND THAT RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINIMIZE SKIN PROBLEMS IN THE COL ARMY WOULD BE PROVIDED IF REQUESTED. GEN HERRERA INDICATED HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ENTIRE PROJECT.
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